

1948.

ANNUAL REPORT.
AND
VITAL STATISTICS
OF THE
URBAN DISTRICT OF KNUTSFORD

BY

E. M. BURRELL,

M.B., Ch.B.,

Medical Officer of Health for

the

Urban District of Knutsford.

KNUTSFORD URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

HEALTH COMMITTEE.

Councillors W. Shaw - Chairman.
 F.W.W.Floyd, J.P. - Chairman of the Council.
 A. E. Percy.
 F. Butler.
 H. Darlington.
 R. H. Davis.
 Mrs. M. Dixon.
 F. Jennings.
 T. S. Meachin.
 J. Forbury.
 E. S. Thomas.
 Mrs. K. M. Wakefield.

Co-opted Members of the Maternity and Child
Welfare Committee.

Mrs. J. Ackerley.	Mrs. M. A. Lewis.
Mrs. J. F. Ellis.	Mrs. G. B. Mason.

E. MORLEY,

Clerk to the Council.

() + E. N. Burrell, M. B.
Medical Officer of Health.

X + Geo. R. Butler, M.S.I.A., A.R.San.I.,
Surveyor, Sanitary Inspector &
Cleansing Superintendent.

() A. E. Lees, M.B., Ch.B.,
Medical Officer, Child Welfare
Centre.

() Part Time.
+ Salary Contribution by Exchequer Grants.
X Whole Time.

PART 1.

Area of District, 2, 491 Acres.
 Height above Sea level 210 feet.
 Registrar General's estimate of Population 6253.
 Number of Inhabited houses(end of 1948) per rate book 1906.
 Rateable Value £45 401.

Sum represented by a penny rate - Gross - £189.
 Nett - £178.

Birth rate per 1000 living 17.6
 General Birth Rate (England & Wales) 17.9
 Death rate per 1000 living 12.3
 General Death rate (England & Wales) 10.8
 Number of women dying in or in consequence of childbirth, 0
 Deaths under 1 year in proportion to 1,000 births 27.
 " " " " " " " " 34.

(England & Wales)

Deaths from Cancer,	12
Deaths from Measles	0
Deaths from Whooping Cough	0
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years old)	0

The total number of deaths from all causes was 7.7 of which
 51 were persons over 65 years of age, and 3 were children
 under 1 year old.

PART 11. TABLES.

TABLE 1.

Vital Statistics of Whole district during 1948
 and the three previous years.

Year.	<u>Population.</u>		<u>Births.</u>		<u>Nett Deaths Belong-</u>			
	For Birth	For Death	No.	Rate.	<u>ing to the District.</u>			
	Rate.	Rate.			Under 1 yr	At all		
					of age.	ages.		
					No. Rate.	No. Rate.		
1945	5620	5620	95	16.9	6	63.0	74	13.2
1946	5856	5856	100	17.1	6	60.0	86	14.7
1947	5910	5910	96	16.2	5	52.0	68	11.5
1948	6253	6253	110	17.6	3	27.0	77	12.3

TABLE 11.

Diseases Notified under Acts and Orders during 1948.

Notifiable Diseases.	At all ages.	Number of Cases Notified.							Total Cases removed to Hospital.
		At Ages - Years.							
		Under 1.	1 to 5.	5 to 15.	15 to 25.	25 to 45.	45 to 65.	65 and upwards.	
Measles.	202		101	100		1			1
Diphtheria, (including Membranous Croup).	1			1					
Erysipelas.									
Scarlet Fever.	1					1			1
Whooping Cough.	17		9	8					
Puerperal Pyrexia.	1					1			
Cerebro Spinal Meningitis.									
Ophthalmia Neonatorum.									
Pulmonary Tuberculosis.	3				1		2		
Other forms of Tuberculosis.	2		1	1					
Pneumonia.	2			1				1	
Chicken Pox.									
Poliomyelitis.									
TOTALS	229		111	111	1	3	2	1	2

TABLE 111.

Deaths Registered during the Calendar Year 1948, classified by age and cause.

Causes of Death.	Nett Deaths at the subjoining ages of "Residents" whether occurring within or without the District.								Total deaths whether of residents or non residents in Institutions in the District.
	All Ages.	under 1 yr.	1 to 2 yrs.	2 to 5 yrs.	5 to 15 yrs.	15 to 25 yrs.	25 to 45 years.	45 to 65 years.	65 and upwards.
All Causes (Certified (Un- ")	770								
Enteric Fever (Para-B)									
Smallpox.									
Measles.									
Scarlet Fever.									
Whooping Cough.									
Diphtheria & Croup.									
Influenza.									
Encephalitis Lethargica.									
Erysipelas.									
Cerebro-Spinal Fever.									
Phthisis (Pul.Tubc.)									
Tuberculosis Meningitis.	1			1					
Other Tuberculous Dis.									
Cancer, Malignant Dis.	12							6	6
Diabetes.									
Rheumatic Fever.									
Meningitis.									
Aneurism.									
Organic Heart Disease.	2								2
Bronchitis.	1						1		
Pneumonia, (all forms).								1	
Other Dis.of Resp.Organ.	1								2
Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum.	2								1
Other Digestive Dis.	1								
Diarrhoea and Enteritis. (under 2 years).									
Appendicitis & Typhlitis.									
Cirrhosis of Liver.									
Other Liver Dis.									
Cerebral Haemorrhage.	3								3
G.P.I.Tabes, etc.,									
Alcoholism.	1							1	
Syphilis.									
Nephritis & Bright's Dis.	1							1	
Arterio-Sclerosis.	29							7	22
Puerperal Fever.									
Other Accidents and Diseases of Pregnancy, and Parturition.									
Congenital Debility & Malformation including Premature Birth.	3	3							
Violent Deaths excluding Suicide.									
Road Accidents.	5					1	2		2
Suicide.	1						1		
Senility.	11								11
Other Defind Diseases.	3						1		2
Diseases ill-defined or unknown.									
Totals.	77	3		1		1	5	16	51

TABLE IV.

INFANT MORTALITY.

1948 Nett Deaths from stated causes at various ages under 1 year of age.

CAUSE OF DEATH.	Under 1 week.	1 to 2 weeks.	2 to 3 weeks.	3 to 4 weeks.	Total under 4 weeks.	4 wks & under 3 months.	3 mths & under 6 months.	6 mths & under 9 months.	9 mths & under 12 mths.	Total deaths under 1 year.
All Causes (Certified 3 (Un- " 0										
Small-pox. Chicken pox. Measles. Scarlet Fever. Whooping Cough. Diphtheria & Croup. Erysipelas. Tuberculous Meningitis. Abdominal Tuberculosis. Other Tuberculous Dis. Meningitis, (not Tuberculous). Convulsions. Laryngitis. Bronchitis. Pneumonia (all forms). Diarrhoea. Enteritis. Gastritis. Syphilis. Rickets. Suffocation (overlying). Injury at Birth. Atelectasis. Congenital Malformations. Premature Birth. Atrophy, Debility, and Marasmus. Gastro Enteritis. Other Causes.										
Totals.	3									3

Nett Births registered during the Calendar Year - legitimate 102.
 " " " " " " " " - illegitimate 8.
 Nett Deaths " " " " " " " " - legitimate infants 3.
 " " " " " " " " - illegitimate infants 0.

Still-births - legitimate, 5. illegitimate, 0.

TABLE V - Notifications of Infectious Diseases.

Year	Smallpox	Scarlet Fever	Diphtheria	Enteric	Puerperal	Erysipelas	Phtthisis	Other forms Tuberculosis	Pneumonia	Measles	Whooping Cough	TOTAL
1946		2	12							1	9	23
1947			2						3	15	4	24
1948		1	1		1		1	2	2	202	17	229

TABLE VI.
Deaths from Special Diseases.

TOTAL	401
Other forms of Tuberculosis	1
Erysipelas	
Puerperal	
Phtisis	3
Diarrhoea	
Enteric	
Whooping Cough	
Diphtheria	1
Scarlet Fever	
Measles	
Smallpox	
Year	1946 1947 1948

TABLE VIÍ(a).

Number of Cases of Tuberculosis notified during the year ended Dec 31st 1948.

[illegible]

Transfers from other areas.

Pul-													
mon-							1						1.
ary.							()						

TABLE VII (b).

Deaths from Tuberculosis registered during the year ended Dec 31st 1948.

[illegible]

Notification is perfectly satisfactory.
1948 showed as follows :-

The register at the end of

	Males	11)			
Pulmonary Cases)	18		
	Females	7)			
)			30
Non Pulmonary Cases	Males	3)			
)	12		
	Females	9)			

No persons suffering from Tuberculosis were found to be engaged in food supply or distribution.

No action under Sect. 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

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SECTION B.

The foregoing tables give many details and I have added footnotes to them. As hospital and laboratory facilities remain unchanged I need only add short references to :-

MATERNITY & CHILD WELFARE.

This is now administered direct by the County Council and is governed by the Regional Committee. The Clinic is held alternate weeks at the Assembly Hall in the Unitarian School and continues to be well attended.

ANTE NATEL SCHEME.

This is also administered direct by the County officials and no records are kept at the Knutsford Public Health Dept., of the cases dealt with.

SECTION C.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES IN THE AREA.

WATER.

The district is supplied with water by the Knutsford Light & Water Company who buy in bulk from Manchester Corporation. The water is soft with low salinity and is of an exceptional high degree of organic purity. Several extensions of the water mains have been made on the Thorneyholme Estate to provide a supply for the new houses erected there.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION AND SCAVENGING.

All ashbins are emptied and cleansed fortnightly. A certain number are emptied weekly and all hotels and large shops twice weekly. The refuse is collected in a freighter and is disposed of by means of controlled tipping in a disused brick field off Beggermans Lane. A full time attendant is in charge of tipping operations, where free tipping is provided to tradesmen and residents in the district.

CAMPING SITES.

There are no licensed camping sites in the district and the number of gypsies camping on roadsides has reduced to practically nil.

SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS.

There are no public or privately owned swimming baths in the town.

PREMISES AND OCCUPATIONS CONTROLLED BY BYE-LAWS AND REGULATIONS.

No nuisances have arisen in respect of tents, vans, sheds, etc.

THE ERADICATION OF BED BUGS.

During the general inspection of the district one house was found to be infested with bugs. This house was treated with insecticide and effectively cleared. The work of disinfection is carried out by the Council's workmen under the supervision of the Sanitary Inspector.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

All the sewerage from the Urban District is carried by gravitating sewers to the Disposal Works on the North Eastern boundary of the town, where the treatment has been carried out quite satisfactorily during the past year. Extensive repairs were carried out to

the walls of the filters and the channels of the humus tanks during the year, and the Sewerage Committee have recommended the re-lining of the storm tanks to be undertaken during 1949. The Bexton Road sewer was further extended to the limit of its gravity gradient in order to receive the new houses built during the year. The sewers in the town were treated for rat infestations on three occasions during the year, the results being entirely satisfactory.

RATS & MICE DESTRUCTION ACT, 1919.

The Council as Agents for the County Council operated the Rats & Mice Destruction Act and gave treatment to a number of private dwellings. In addition contracts were entered into in respect of two business premises and regular treatments were undertaken. The Council's Sanitary Inspector is the Officer responsible for the work and he has two members of his staff trained in up-to-date methods of dealing with infestations.

PUBLIC CONVENIENCES.

During the year it was deemed necessary to enlarge the Public Conveniences in Northwich Road by the installation of two additional W.C's. in the Ladies Section. These lavatories serve a great public need and are greatly appreciated by the travelling public who make Knutsford a regular stopping place, particularly the coach traffic from the Midlands to the Lancashire Coast towns. During the height of the holiday season the accommodation is still taxed to its limit, and has been the cause of numerous complaints by the residents in the Gaskell Avenue area. Fully alive to its responsibilities the Council have prepared a scheme for the setting up of a Coaching Station on the site of the old Prison at the rear of the Sessions House, and plans have already received the approval of the County Council who are also prepared to make a monetary grant towards the initial cost of constructing same. It is hoped that when this scheme is completed all coaches stopping in Knutsford will be compelled to use this parking ground and thus relieve congestion in the Streets. The proposal provides for the erection of adequate lavatory accommodation, shelter and ultimately for refreshment rooms.

SALVAGE.

The scavenging department have carried out the collection of salvage during the year, and the principle items were 46 tons 13½cwts of waste paper value £297, and 31½ tons of kitchen waste value £40. 0.0d. The total sale of salvage materials were approximately £400.

SCHOOLS.

The sanitary conditions and water supply at the schools are above suspicion as to the cause of infectious disease. The lavatory accommodation and closets are regularly inspected by the Sanitary Inspector, and all elementary schools are disinfected during the summer holidays.

SECTION D.

HOUSING.

The construction of new houses was well maintained during the year inspite of restrictions and limited supplies of labour and materials. Eight houses were completed on the Westfield Drive Estate completing the whole scheme of 48 houses. Forty six houses were completed and occupied on the Thorneyholme Estate and eight private houses were also completed. In addition one house was made into two seperate occupations giving a total of 63 new houses for the year. The new estate at Thorneyholme is making very good progress and at the end of 1948, 56 houses were occupied and 24 under construction.

Taking everything into account the Council have done a good job of work in connection with Housing, as since the end of the

war 135 new houses have been completed, 104 of which are Council houses. The waiting list of housing applicants is still a large one, and it will take many years to satisfy every applicant for a house.

The usual routine inspection of privately owned houses was carried out, and many defects were discovered which were all remedied as a result of informal action by the Sanitary Inspector. A shack which had been used as a dwelling by a farm labour was condemned and demolished and the occupant removed to Arclid Institution.

Generally speaking the housing conditions in the town are satisfactory with a small number of sub-standard houses of which the Council is fully aware.

SECTION E.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

MILK SUPPLY.

During the year the farms and dairies have been visited at various times, and continue to be kept in a satisfactory manner. The sampling of the milk produced in the town is undertaken by the Weights & Measures Department of the County Council, but no cases of adulterations were reported during the year.

Veterinary inspection of cattle.

The veterinary inspection of cattle is not now carried out by the County Council. Separate statistics are not kept for the various districts regarding milk samples for bacterial content and tubercle bacilli but the County Medical Officer confirms that samples of milk have been examined from each farm holding an accredited licence.

Slaughter Houses.

All the slaughterhouses in the area are closed and no animals have been slaughtered in the area during the year. The various butchers in the town receive their supplies from the Allocation Depot at Altrincham.

Bakehouses.

There are 14 bakehouses in use in the district. These premises have been inspected periodically during the year and notices requesting the occupiers to lime wash the walls have been served at stated periods, and as occasion has required. The premises have been kept clean generally and have been limewashed in accordance with the regulations.

SECTION F.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Immunisation against diphtheria has gone ahead during the year. No figures are available in respect of the actual number of children immunised, but the percentage of immunised children in the area is a high one.

Only one case of diphtheria was notified during the year, this being an inmate of the Racefield Homes.

Sanitary Staff.

The appointment of a full time Medical Officer of Health for the district was the means of my relinquishing the office I have

held for the last 5 years, and now the duties are being undertaken by Dr. Longbottom.

The local staff is unchanged, and I wish to express my thanks to Mr. Butler, the Sanitary Inspector & Surveyor for his excellent work throughout the year, also for his assistance in compiling this report. My thanks are also recorded for the courtesy and help of Mrs. A. Johnson, the Clerk-Typist in the Health Department.

E.M. BURRELL, M.B., Ch.B.,

Medical Officer of Health.

November, 1949.

